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The Spectator

Thursday, April 12, 2018

Volume LXI
Number 21

Publishing the Truth, From Good Motives and For Justifiable Ends

Susan Rice and Condoleezza Rice debate foreign affairs in second installment of Common Ground

by Charles Dunst '18
& Will Kaback '20
Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor

On Wednesday, April 11, Hamilton College, combining funding from the Sacerdote Great Names and Common Ground programs, hosted Condoleezza Rice, Susan Rice, and Andrea Mitchell. Great Names is supported by the Sacerdote family, while Common Ground is supported by the Pohl family, in honor of the five members of the family who graduated from Hamilton.

Filled to capacity, members of the campus and local community converged on the Margaret Scott Bundy Field House at 7:30 PM for an evening of moderated discussion.

This spring's speakers were Condoleezza Rice, the 66th United States Secretary of State in President George W. Bush's administration and Susan Rice, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and the 24th National Security Advisor from 2013-2017 under President Barack Obama. Andrea Mitchell, *NBC News* Chief Foreign Affairs Correspondent, moderated the event.

In addition to the mainstage discussion, Secretary Rice and Ambassador Rice participated in numerous additional events on campus, including a discussion with students enrolled in Government 418: International Law, taught by President Wippman, and Government 114: International Relations, taught by Henry Platt Bristol Professor of International Affairs Alan Cafruny. Moderator Andrea Mitchell joined the Secretary and the Ambassador for a reception in Wellin Hall and dinner at President Wippman's home with student leaders, select faculty members, and board members.

In the classroom discussions, the two speakers addressed student questions regarding American drone strikes, President Donald Trump's recent imposition of steel tariffs, and the use of force in Syria, among other topics.

Andrea Mitchell opened the main event by asking the speakers to present their thoughts on the contemporary crisis in Syria, regarding President Bashar al-Assad's alleged use of checmical weapons and how the U.S. should respond. Secretary Rice stated that the U.S. had no real leverage in the region, meaning that there is a need to tread carefully. Ambassador Rice lamented that "There is no good answer," referencing the ineffectiveness of President Trump's strike last year. "Both our strategies haven't worked in ending chemical weapons in Syria," she said.

The speakers' most profound disagreement came in discussions over the Iran deal. Signed in 2015 by Islamic Republic of Iran and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Germany, and the European Union, the deal was designed to limit Iran's nuclear program. Secretary Rice, while enumerating the deal to be deficient – and the arguing that the U.S. could have done better — admitted that she, unlike President Trump, is in favor of maintaining the deal. Ambassador Rice defended the deal, asserting that it would serve to slow Iran's attempts to become nuclearly capable.

PHOTO BY JERRY TANG '21

Susan Rice (left), Andrea Mitchell (middle), and Condoleeza Rice (right) on stage on Wednesday.

Both women addressed issues of race and gender as well. When prompted by a student question, both women indicated that they were, as children, taught, that as black women, they had to "work twice as hard" to be seen on the same level as whites. Both women, however, indicated that they advocated rejecting notions of victimhood, instead imploring individuals to utilize their own agency.

Student Assembly President Nadav Konforty '20 said: "It was wonderful to see such powerful figures respectfully spar back and forth on something like the Iran Nuclear deal and disagree but also find common ground." He also added that he thinks "this Common Ground event really hit its stride."

Ben Rhind, the President of the College Democrats agreed with Konforty. "I thought this was a huge improvement over the Common Ground from the Fall," he said.

"While I wish there had been some discussion around some of the more problematic decisions in each of their pasts, I thought their discussion around current issues was fascinating."

DOJ investigating early-decision admissions, Hamilton contacted, asked to preserve records

by Benjamin Katz '20
News Editor

On April 9, the higher education industry news site *Inside HigherEd* broke the story that the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) was opening an investigation into the early-decision admissions processes employed by many colleges and universities in the United States. Specifically, the DOJ has expressed concerns that certain aspects of early-decision admission have violated federal antitrust laws through the sharing of information about accepted applicants.

The Department of Justice sent out a letter to several colleges and universities last week. The letter, which was reviewed by *Inside HigherEd*, the *Wall Street Journal* and *New York Times*, did not specify how the communications between colleges violat antitrust trust laws, but did provide an extensive list on the communications that the DOJ is requesting colleges minatain. In sum, the DOJ requested that the institutions that received the letter keep nearly all internal documents regarding admissions decisions, as well as any communications with other colleges and early-decision applicants.

While it is currently unclear exactly how many colleges and universities received a letter from the DOJ, Hamilton College's Associate Vice President for Communications Mike Debraggio confirmed that Hamilton was one of the institutions that received a letter. In an email to *The Spectator* following a request for comment, Debraggio wrote that "I can confirm that Hamilton was one of the colleges that received a letter from the Department of Justice and that we will cooperate fully." Amherst College, a peer institution, has also confirmed to *New York Times* that they were one of the schools who received a letter from the Department of Justice.

Amherst's Dean of Admissions told *U.S. News* in 2016 that the college shared lists of early-decision admitted students with about 30 other schools. What exactly the DOJ suspects schools of doing with this shared information is unclear. In an interview with the *New York Times*, Terry Hartle, the senior vice president of the American Council on Education, expressed surprise at the DOJ's investigation.

This is not the first time that DOJ has investigated whether college admissions practices have violated antitrust laws. In 1989, the DOJ began an investigation into meetings consisting of the eight Ivy League institutions and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to coordinate tuition levels and financial aid packages for admitted students. The investigation was expanded to fifty-seven institutions, and in 1991, the DOJ filed an antitrust suit under the Sherman Act.

While the Ivy League universities settled, M.I.T. prevailed in 1994 when the DOJ settled the case favorably with them. Ultimately, in 1994, Congress passed Improving America's School Act, which exempted private institutions from violating antitrust law should they share pre-award data of commonly admitted financial aid students.

The investigation also occurs a mere three months after an investigation into the ethics code of the National Association for College Admissions Counseling. The DOJ sent information requests to members of the NACAC who were instrumental in drafting the code of ethics. The DOJ letters to the NACAC claimed the investigation was "to restrain trade among colleges and universities in the recruitment of students." However, it is unclear whether the investigations related in any capacity. On April 9, David Burge, the President of the NACAC, wrote in an email to members of NACAC that "We have no reason to believe that this new inquiry is connected to the Justice Department's recent requests for information about our Statement of Principles of Good Practice: NACAC's Code of Ethics and Professional Practices."

While Debraggio concluded his email by saying that "That's all we can say at this point," *The Spectator* will continue to uncover this unfolding story as further details emerge.

Graham Burton's parents send open letter to community regarding mental health at Hamilton

by Jonina Mignon '21
Staff Writer

On April 1, Student Assembly released an open letter written by the parents of the late Graham Burton to the Hamilton community. In 2016, Graham was a sophomore at Hamilton when he took his life in his dorm room on a campus that promises to promote a supportive community where people look out for one another. As they describe in the letter, the Burtons believe Hamilton failed Graham in a number of ways, as well as failing the Burtons in their own hopes for the entire community to follow up and make changes that will prevent such a tragedy from occurring again.

In their open letter to the community, which Student Assembly President Nadav Konforty '20 shared with the campus via email, the Burtons list the contents of numerous emails that were exchanged between different members of the faculty and administrators in the Dean's office. The contents of the emails made it evident that authority figures at Hamilton were aware of Graham's struggles leading up to his suicide. Despite their shared concerns, however, the administration did not notify the Burton family, and Graham did not receive the help and support he very clearly needed.

In response to the issues raised in the letter, as well as a number of other changes that could be made in our community, Student Assembly and the Levitt Social Innovation Team worked in collaboration to implement Hamilton's first ever Town Hall. At this event on April 2, students and faculty came together to speak about sexual assault, academic stress, and mental health, among other issues. The letter was a particular focal point of that night's discussions, and many students had questions about the administration's response to the letter. Those questions were also posed at the weekly Student Assembly meeting.

With President David Wippman and Vice President and Dean of Students Terry Martinez in attendance to answer questions, members of the Student Assembly as well as students outside of the organization had the opportunity to voice their opinions and call for change. The letter opened up discussions on mental health, available mental health resources to students on campus, and the improvements that can be made to current Hamilton policies.

Ian Lunn '18 started by asking numerous questions, addressing the administration's inaction in the wake of the letter, the increasing number of students taking leaves of absence, the inadequate suicide prevention training that is offered to the faculty, and the confusion surrounding why the Burtons were left in the dark when it came to their son's struggles with mental health. This last question especially was a point of controversy; many students were angry that the Burtons were not notified, even as Graham's situation was described by his academic advisor as a "complete crash and burn."As President Wippman stated in response, "As much as I might like to discuss the specific circumstances of any given student, I can't for privacy and other reasons. It's not appropriate for me to talk about any specific student's mental health situation or what the College recommends with respect to any given students. We can talk about what the College's mental health policy and practices are. And we can talk about what has happened over the last year and a half and the steps that the College has taken."

Many Student Assembly members echoed this sentiment, urging the community to use the letter not as a divisive force but rather as a tool to move forward and create positive changes. As Gavin Meade '20, the Student Assembly's Mental Health Liaison, stated, "it's irresponsible of us to assign blame of steps that have occurred since an event took place. It raises the idea that we are at odds with or in conflict with the administration when, as President Wippman just stated, it should be a collaborative effort working with them to the same end."

To that end, Dean Martinez also explained the current steps that the administration is taking toward improving mental health awareness on campus, including implementing more extensive Gatekeeper suicide prevention training for all faculty members and working with specific students on a case-by-case basis "to make sure they get the support that they need much sooner when they are in crisis." She and President Wippman noted that the administration is also working closely with David Walden, the director of the Counseling Center, as well as the JED Foundation, an organization that establishes programs and guides to educate schools on mental health and suicide prevention efforts.

However, as acknowledged numerous times at the Student Assembly meeting and at the Town Hall that took place the day afterward, this is an ongoing conversation in which all members of our community must take part. While the current efforts being made are encouraging steps in the right direction, active participation and consideration of these issues are essential to affecting policies, creating the positive changes necessary on campus, and ultimately fulfilling the goal of the Burtons' letter: securing the well-being of both current and future Hamilton students.

On the Move organizes Refugee Solidarity Month to promote awareness for the refugee community

Emma Ritz '20
Staff Writer

"Each century is defined by a catastrophe. The 20th century was defined by two world wars. The 21st century will be defined by the refugee crisis," said Erol Balkan, the faculty advisor to the student organization On The Move.

According to the UN, 65 million people have been forced to flee their homes, the highest number ever recorded. Among this group, there are approximately 22.5 million refugees, of whom over half are under the age of 18. As of 2015, only 189,300 of these 22.5 million refugees had been resettled.

April is Refugee Solidarity Month, and On The Move is putting on a variety of events to raise both funds and awareness for the refugee community. So far, OTM has hosted an international food festival featuring dishes from Minar, Hummus and Tabbouleh, Sunny's, and Lucky Mey's Market. Students ate falafel, grape leaves, chicken shawarma, pad thai, chicken tikka masala, and many other foods. The event, which also included a raffle, was widely attended. On the Move saw more than 100 students show up to eat and donate money to the United Nations Refugee Agency.

Additionally, on April 9, Hamilton hosted a conversation with alumna and renowned author Kamila Shamsie '94 about a project she took part in called Refugee Tales. She gave a talk and a reading detailing her interview with an unnamed refugee who survived torture in his home country and then moved to the United Kingdom, where she said he experienced rejection and mistreatment. Through spreading the stories of asylum seekers, Shamsie said she hopes to humanize the refugee crisis and deter the anti-immigrant rhetoric that has become so widespread in recent years. Shamsie also informed attendees of advances being made in politics and society in regards to refugee awareness and support. At the end of her reading, she told her listeners that members of Parliament in Britain had made reference to Refugee Tales during their debates, citing this as proof that a group of motivated and passionate citizens can influence policy.

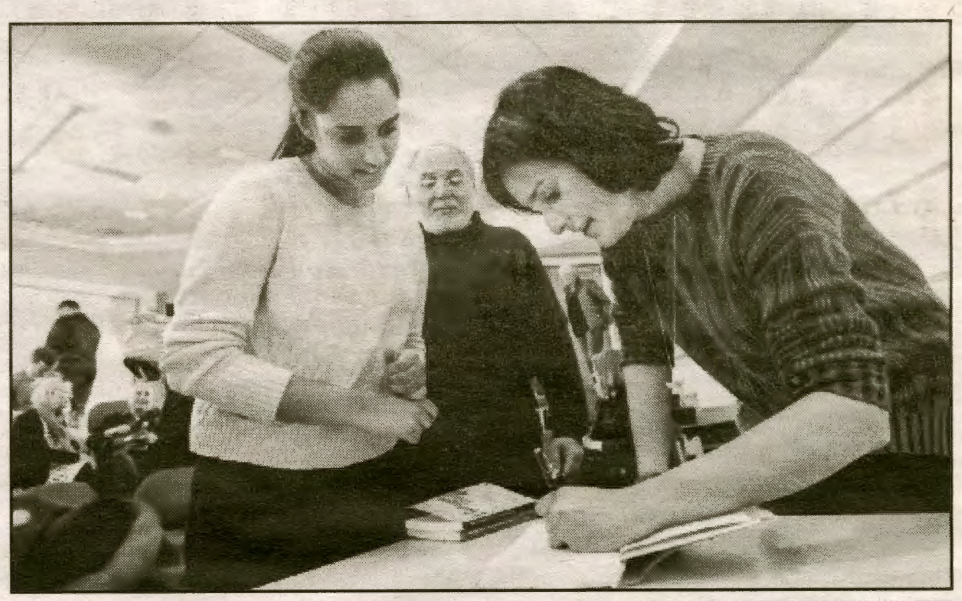

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE/NANCY L. FORD

Kamila Shamsie '94 gave a talk on April 9 and signed copies of her book as part of Refugee Solidarity Month.

As this is a month-long movement, On the Move has many other events planned. Later this month, on Monday, April 16, photographer Tim August is set to present Moving Pictures: The Refugee Image at 7 p.m. in the Red Pit. Additionally, on April 23, Susan Hartman K'74, who is a journalist and graduate of Kirkland College, is scheduled to give a talk in the Red Pit about her work with female refugees in Utica. Finally, Frontline editor and alumnus Andrew Metz '91 will be presenting PBS's Exodus on Saturday, April 28 in the KJ Auditorium at 5 p.m.

To cap off the month, Journey West, a band whose members hail from Iraq, Sudan, Iran, and the United States, will present a concert open to the community at Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute on Sunday April 29. The band incorporates their cultural diversity in the making of their sound, mixing musical styles and instruments from the Middle East, Eastern and Western Europe, and the United States.

With regards to refugee awareness, On the Move stated that "we would like to remind everyone they can help refugees regardless of what month it is. Donate money to the UN or other legitimate charitable organizations. Volunteer with OTM, Project Shine, MUCC, or one of the other various organizations on campus devoted to helping the refugee community in Utica." On the Move urges anyone with any questions to reach out to them via email.

College community celebrates cultural diversity with International Fair Day

by Emma Ritz '20
Staff Writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON COLLEGE/NANCY L. FORD

Attendees were able to explore different cultures by sampling foods, learning about different languages, and participating in activities at different tables like the Sudan table (pictured above).

On March 31, the Student Assembly's Cultural Affairs committee organized International Fair Day, a festival for international students to celebrate their cultures and Hamilton's cultural diversity. International students staffed tables in the Fillius Events Barn that shared clothes, food, photographs, music, and the languages and culture of their home countries.

In total, 15 different countries were represented by students, including Bhutan, China, Columbia, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Russia, Sudan, Sweden, and Yemen. Students, staff, and faculty who attended the event were able to sample culinary delights from around the world. Highlights include specialties such as Yemeni coffee, Colombian tostones, Korean noodles, Pakistani pakora, and Indian chicken tikka masala.

While serving the foods, international students at their tables were given the opportunity to share information both about the food and about broader respective cultures. Many tables had traditional crafts or handed out postcards, and others had interactive exhibits. The table representing Yemen allowed women to try on traditional Yemeni jewelry, and men to wrap their heads in Yemeni head scarves. Additionally, the Sudanese table offered people the opportunity to smell Sudanese incense and sample traditional perfume.In a statement made for the Hamilton website, Jiin Jeong '21 is a representative on Student Assembly and the chair of the Cultural Afairs Committee. Jeong, who is an international student from South Korea herself, spearheaded the planning for the event and stated that "This event was planned with the goals of bringing the community together, providing the campus with a fun and educational event, and providing a space for students to embrace their cultural background, whether it is their country of origin or country of heritage. I loved that throughout the event, people were asking questions and taking time to learn about a new culture, and these are conversations that I hope our community will continue to have even after this event."

The International Fair marked the beginning of a series of cultural events at Hamilton. The day of the festival came the day prior to the start of Refugee Solidarity Month, which is a college-wide event. In addition to the International Students Fair Day, Hamilton will also be hosting an international food festival. On April 9, Pakistani-British novelist Kamilia Shamse '94 conducted a book reading and gave a talk in line with Refugee Solidary Month. Several other events, including a performance by the band Journey West, will take place throughout the month.

Fradulent advertisement uses College's name to mislead local businesses

by Erica Ivins '21
Contributing Writer

As WKTV reported officially last week, fraudulent salespeople have been using the name of Hamilton College to approach local businesses and scam them out of money.

The College's Campus Safety department has been handling this particular scam for over a year. "The scam was first reported in the spring of 2017, believe it or not," said Campus Safety Director Francis Coots. "We then initiated an internal investigation on campus and found that no collegiate groups were actually a part of it, and that's when we determined that it was a scam."

The use of trusted school names as a scamming strategy has affected many colleges across the country, and this particular incident marked one of many fraudulent cases involving Hamilton College's name. "Hamilton became aware of a similar scam about five years ago," said Director of Communications Michael Debraggio. "Then, like now, merchants were told [by the scammers that] their advertisements would become part of a publication that the College had agreed to distribute to students on campus; Hamilton had made no such agreement."

Coots agreed, reporting that this type of fraud easily allows scammers to take advantage of locals in support of a college. "I would be really surprised if they didn't take advantage of every single college every single year because it's like the business throws a hook out and waits to catch someone that will offer them money," said Coots. "And many businesses will be willing to donate because there's so many people out there that want to partner with the College and do the right thing."

After investigations, the College discovered that the fraudulent business is based in Florida, but criminal charges cannot be pursued. "We wrote a letter to the business in Florida that we believe was behind it all, telling them that they were not authorized by the College to ask for money," said Coots. "But I think that the business will continue doing it because when scammers weigh out the risks, it's still financially worth taking the chance to make money."

Having but one option left, the College has already taken action on a collegiate, local, and state level to make the public and legal offices aware of the situation. Debraggio said, "Hamilton filed a complaint with the New York Attorney General's Office and asked the Clinton Chamber of Commerce to make its members aware of this scam should it be tried again in the future.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE MAPS

Some local businesses in and around Clinton were targeted by scammers taking advantage of the shopowners' close ties to the College.

Having associated with the College for many years, some local businesses around or in the Village of Clinton found themselves affected by the scammers. "I spoke to a business in Clinton Village last week, and I know they had been approached by the scammer and actually paid some money," said Coots. "The business told me that they have such a good relationship with Hamilton College that it didn't want to say no when somebody had a contract that asked for donations."

Coots, however, remained hopeful and positive that the local community will keep good relationships with the College despite this incident. Coots said, "We have a great relationship with the community and the businesses, and they know that collegiate groups often approach them throughout the year for funding—and they look forward to this partnership."

Stay the course

The past two weeks on Hamilton's campus have been characterized by challenge and disagreement. Student Assembly's first Town Hall, held on April 2, came on the heels of Stewart and Gina Burton's open letter to the community regarding the Administration's handling of their late son's mental health and eventual suicide.

That same day, according to an email sent out by Allen Harrison of the Bias Incident Response Team, a student reported that, in the Kirner-Johnson building, "issues of the Hamilton publication *Grasping Roots* that were placed on a bench with a number of other publications/handouts were ripped or cut in half. The following night other flyers/posters in the same location were also found destroyed."

Although the investigation into this incident in ongoing, it is hard to ignore the implications of a publication that, according to the College's website, "centers Black intellectual thought and artistic expression, and strives to give voice to the works of members of the African diaspora, both on-campus and abroad" being defaced and destroyed.

Last week, *The Spectator* published an opinion article by Gavin Meade '20 titled "Making false statements out of ignorance is still ignorance", in which the author argued that student commentary at the Town Hall was not wholly truthful and hurt the prospects of finding solutions to campus issues as a community. In the article, Meade cited, anonymously, specific quotes from students at the Town Hall that he found particularly representative of his argument. The article, while not representative of the views of *The Spectator*, stirred controversy within the student body, with some opting to voice their disagreement with the piece on social media. Others compiled their thoughts into formal writing, publishing these thoughts in this week's edition of *The Spectator*.

Additionally, at the Student Assembly meeting on April 9, there was a discussion of Meade's article among a portion of the group after the meeting ended. Meade, who serves as Student Assembly's Mental Health Liaison, was present for these talks. According to Student Assembly President Nadav Konforty, this part of the meeting was not made public in the Student Assembly minutes or live-stream because "the meeting had already gone over 10:15 PM that night, which is around half an hour longer than we usually do. Many students had work to go do or other commitments or go to sleep. About one third of the Assembly wanted to talk about the article and have a discussion but most students wanted to leave so I gave them that option as I had already held them over."

Konforty, who says he was only present for part of this discussion, stresses that the conversation was not included in the minutes because it took place after the meeting had formally ended and only included a portion of the Assembly's body. Konforty says that the conversation did not center around whether or not Meade should have written the article, but that "some students felt that it made Student Assembly look bad because he is affiliated with the Assembly whether he likes it or not and whether he realized it or not."

Whether it is the Town Hall, Meade's article, the discussion in Student Assembly, or the incident with *Grasping Roots*, it is clear that issues of expression and speech have moved to the forefront of our campus consciousness since returning from Spring Break. This is not the first time this year that we have broached this topic. Paul Gottfried's visit to the College in October certainly caused its own share of controversy, both in the moment and months later.

Our current and varied strategies of dealing with challenging speech on campus are a far-cry from the supposed actions of "raging, anti-fascist students" that Gottfried described encountering during his time on the Hill (that is, if you believe a silent protest constitutes "raging" and that "anti-fascist" is an unflattering title.)

Instead, we seem to be approaching this issue as a campus that has endured multiple deaths within the community in less than two years; this campus has seen friends and colleagues struggle with mental health; this campus has a relatively new administration that is working to update and improve its ability to effectively serve a student body in need; this campus is struggling but remains resolutely committed to bettering itself.

Undoubtedly, there have been sentiments expressed by individuals and groups in the past two weeks that have not been constructive towards improving campus dialogue. Such instances should not overshadow the positive developments that have come of these discussions. Student Assembly is already planning more Town Hall events for next year, the administration continues to meet and discuss solutions with students. *The Spectator*'s editorial and opinion pages remain open to any and all voices that will engage in constructive, fact-based debate. There is more to do, but much to be proud of already.

Let disagreement and challenge spark more discourse, not less, and let us remain committed to finding solutions together.

The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely, and high-quality publication.

***The Spectator* editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.**

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Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college, and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

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The administration's failure regarding campus mental health

by Maggie Luddy '20
Contributing Writer

We have an epidemic on this campus. It is not ignorance of the student body; it is a lack of mental health resources.

The Student Assembly-organized Town Hall on April 2 was advertised as an opportunity for the Administration to "check the pulse" of the student body on the issues of racism, (in)tolerance, free speech, mental health, and sexual assault. These issues are of the utmost importance, but, because they say they should write what you know, this article only deals with the conversations regarding mental health.

I was the first person to speak at our Town Hall. As soon as the floor was opened, I wanted to draw attention to the unfortunate ineffectiveness of the Counseling Center and the general lack of mental healthcare on this campus. I was not fortunate enough to know Graham Burton '19, but the opem letter sent by Mr. and Mrs. Burton to the campus community cut me to my core, as I am sure it did for most of us. I was horrified and disgusted with the contents of the letter, but unfortunately not as shocked as I should have been. As a first year January admit last year, I went to the Counseling Center in early March (only a month and a half after my arrival on campus) to request weekly counseling sessions, which I had become reliant on during my senior year of high school. I was told that the first appointment was not available for two weeks and that the Counseling Center rarely does weekly meetings, only bi-weekly. Because I do not have clinical depression or anxiety, I had no leg to stand on to request any sort of immediate counseling. I left the Counseling Center feeling as though I was not mentally ill enough to use its resources.

The next week, I had a private meeting with President Wippman to discuss the mental health resources on campus and I went to my first Minds for Change meeting. In our meeting, Wippman assured me that through the external review and a JED Foundation review, things were going to change. He told me that the hiring of a new dean who was going to be responsible the Students of Concern team, which would alleviate pressure from the Counseling Center, allowing them to be more effective. At the Town Hall, the overwhelming sentiment of the student body proved that these efforts have not led to effective change. My first-hand interactions with close friends struggling with mental illness and a wide array of students through Minds for Change has reinforced this idea.

In last week's article "Making false statements out of ignorance is still ignorance", the author, Gavin Meade '20, voiced his disdain for students who "did not approach the Town Hall as a community coming together to find solutions, but as a space for them to voice outrage on what they perceived as failings of the Administration."

I see an issue with positioning our outrage as counterproductive to finding solutions. In order to truly "check our pulse," students should not take issue with that pulse being one of anger. Once outrage is voiced, real work can happen. The Town Hall was a rare opportunity for us as students to ensure that the Administration understands the passion we feel for this topic. If that comes with some outrage, so be it.

I absolutely walked into the Town Hall angry. I was angry that I have to fear for the lives of my close friends who struggle with mental illness. I was angry because I watched my peers mourn the deaths of Graham and Isaiah. I was angry because in a community discussion held by Dean Martinez following Isaiah's death, we told the Administration what we needed and they turned their back on us. We do not need a whiteboard, we need more counselors.

Throughout my time on the hill, I have seen individual students and groups try to create institutional changes that would strengthen our mental health resources. Time and time again I have seen the Administration refuse our help, often churning out the notion that we do not understand the complexities of the situation. We who have watched our friends die, we who have hurt ourselves, we who are slowly killing ourselves in this culture of perfection. We do not understand the complexities.

The statement about getting through all the topics in two hours was warranted, seeing as the statement "We have to move on" from the moderators came immediately after the first mention of the letter from Graham's parents. That warrants anger to me. We were told this would be our space to voice our feelings, but as soon as we got too passionate, the opportunity was taken away from us. That warrants anger to me. A child is dead and the Administration is failing to support the community he left behind in a way that will effectively and unequivocally help. That warrants anger to me.

That being said, there were also multiple moments throughout the night when students offered solutions, ideas, and projects, and supported one another to create a collective voice. The Town Hall was an opportunity for the student body to work as a unit in a space of community coming together to find solutions and as a space voice outrage.

"Mental health on this campus is a joke" was one of the quotations that last week's article ridiculed. I resoundingly agree with that statement. Too often students are only offered counseling sessions with professional staff after 4 PM. This is utterly ridiculous. As someone who takes five classes, works ten-to-tweleve hours a week at the Career Center, and is on the E-Board of two organizations, my nine-four is dedicated to work and my studies. After 4:00 is the time I would actually be available to seek counseling and when my need for counseling is at its highest. Again, because of the culture perpetuated by the Counseling Center and the Administration, those of us who are not actively struggling with illness that can be perceived as critical are not mentally ill enough to use the only resources available after 4 PM. I am not in crisis; I just want to be able to talk through my week with a counselor.

Another sentiment from the Town Hall I strongly agree with is the anger felt towards Dean Martinez's comments on leaves of absence. At the Student Assembly meeting on April 1, Dean Martinez stated: "I see leaves of absence as a really good thing for students." When is it proper to glorify students having to leave because the mental health resources on campus are not sufficient for them to continue their learning? It is not that the Administration is actively asking students to leave, which was not the argument made by the student referred to in last week's article. The student, who I believe was misquoted, did not argue that the Hamilton Administration "forces students off campus because they don't want them to be a liability," or that "they don't want students on campus who have mental health concerns." Rather, she voiced a fear that she and many students have that Hamilton is moving towards such an environment, which is indeed present at other peer schools.

The issue is in the fact that the Administration sees it as a good option to have students put their education on hold. I cannot speak from a place of immediate effect, but as someone who has had multiple close friends either take a leave of absence or seriously consider it, it is not something to be glorified. It is a nightmare to leave and should be treated as a last resort. Not to mention the fact that students who take a leave are often not refunded their tuition, making this an absolute non-option for students who cannot afford that financial burden.

The stigma of mental health on this campus is not perpetuated by students. I walked out of the Town Hall feeling that notion stronger than anything else. Through my work with Minds for Change, I can proudly and confidently say we live on a campus where students do not stigmatize mental health. On the contrary, we are the ones taking care of each other because those who are supposed to be doing it are not.

I cannot imagine the difficulty and the torment of being an administrator at such a rigorous institution as this. Losing students to suicide takes a toll on all members of the community, especially one as tight as ours. I am not here to support an anti-Administration agenda. I am here to support the incredible grassroots activism I saw occur at the Town Hall. I am here to give praise to the brave students who are giving voice to the feelings of so many of us. I am here to say that the Administration asked for our pulse and we resoundingly gave them one of anger and frustration as a call to action. Now they have our pulse, the question is what they will do with it.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Common Ground! We love this. It's good to hear different perspectives, especially when they're the same perspective. My favorite perspective? Soulless technocratic liberal imperialism. My favorite economy? Ours!	**Common Ground. I'm not a lib. The people in the cool, mean, hip, sexually tense circle I run in? Also not libs. This event has nothing for me. And now my esteemed Sacerdote™ Great Names™ Lecturer™ is taken up, too, in a dreadful sucker-punch two for one!**	**Common Ground. Bring Karl Rove back, please. At least he was a Christian. And it was pretty cool when he said he had zero regrets about the Iraq War. Me neither, pal. Me neither.**

by Zachary Deming '20 and Ethan Dunn '20

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

Deriding the Town Hall stifles discourse and impedes meaningful change

by Evan Weinstein '19
Contributing Writer

In the article "Making false statements out of ignorance is still ignorance," which appeared in the April 4th edition of *The Spectator*, I was specifically referenced, with the author writing: "One student had the gall to read a subsection of FERPA that he felt was particularly salient. This student attempted to lecture a former international lawyer and Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Law Review* on a legal matter. How conceited must you be to think that you know better?"

"Gall" is a strong designation and one I aim to refute. During Student Assembly, the author – the body's Mental Health Liaison – asked when the administration deems it appropriate to contact parents in regard to student mental health or general concerns with one's behavior. President Wippman responded to this question: "There is a federal statute, FERPA, which addresses certain instances in which the college can notify parents about a student's academic record." He went on to say that "we don't think that automatically referring any academic issue to the parents would be the right step, nor would it be consistent with FERPA."

This assessment is deceitful at best, and an outright lie at worst. If the author had listened to what I said at the Town Hall, he would know this. At the Town Hall, I stated: "Schools may disclose education records to parents if the student is claimed as a dependent for tax purposes." That is not my opinion; this not anyone's opinion, but a part of the text of FERPA – section 99.31. Given that the vast majority of students are indeed claimed by their parents or guardians as dependents, we do not have FERPA rights, once it is demonstrated that we are a dependent, meaning that the administration's response is insufficient. Students deserve to know when our parents will be contacted. Students deserve to know that our parents will be contacted in times of crisis.

As an undergraduate, rather than a former Editor-in-Chief of the *Yale Law Review*, I may be wrong about all of this, but if I am, why have neither the administration, the Registrar, nor the compliance office released an answer consistent with the law? Transparency is supposed to be a priority; why is this information not publicly available?

Last week's article does not dispute my central claim – that FERPA does not apply to the majority of Hamilton students. It is strange to write an article ostensibly about false statements without actually proving that they are false. Even more importantly, why does the author so closely examine the truth value of the statements made by students while ignoring outright falsehoods perpetuated by the administration? There is no requirement that students be 100 percent accurate when discussing issues that affect them; the administration, however, should be held to a far higher standard.

Intentionally or not, when President Wippman answered my question at the Town Hall, his statement was not consistent with the text of the federal law he referred to. Why did the author of last week's article not address this? The article should not only have addressed this inconsistency but should have granted more leeway to students as well. When students speak out in support of increased resources for mental health, why deride them as "more interested in ignorance than the pursuit of truth"? Would it be appropriate to say the same to a veteran who got PTSD statistics wrong or a student of color who gave outdated police shooting statistics?

PHOTO BY JADE THOMAS '20

Many students aired concernced at the town hall, speaking to facilitators and administration.

What I saw at the Town Hall last week was the very best of Hamilton College and its students. Students came together to confront real and serious issues that harm themselves and their friends. There is a mental health crisis on this campus — demand for counseling center services has never been higher — and we have to grapple with that. The campus community has to understand why so many are struggling to find resources that can help them have the best possible experience. People are angry, rightfully so, at an administration that seemingly turns a blind eye to student concern. President Wippman may well eat with students in Commons or attend events like Hogwarts at Hamilton, but if this school and its policies do not change in response to student pressure then this is not enough. It is not enough to say we brought in a team from Duke. It is not enough to point to laws that do not explain school practices. It is not enough to attend these Town Hall's if real change is not actualized. Last week's article makes all of this less likely, repressing the very discourse it claims to promote.

The increasing fault in the law and justice system resulting from implicit biases

by Dorothy Poucher '21
Contributing Writer

The police shooting of Stephon Clark occurred on March 18 in Sacramento, California. Initial reports cite calls to the police regarding a man breaking windows of cars and entering people's backyards with a "tool bar." A helicopter spotted Clark and followed him overhead, while policemen were directed to him on foot. The police shot at Clark immediately claiming to have seen a gun, which was later found to be a cell phone, and that Clark was approaching the officers in a threatening manner. Once Clark stopped moving towards the group, the officers asked him to put his hands in the air. These officers fired a total of twenty shots, ten each, claiming that they feared for their safety. Five minutes after they shot the last bullet, they left their place of safety behind the house to approach him. Though it was unclear whether or not he could have been saved in these moments, it it is true that each minute that passes increases the risk to a wounded individual. A few minutes after the last bullet was shot, the police officers involved also muted their audio recorders. In the aftermath of the shooting, an independent autopsy was ordered by the family and protesters marched in Sacramento for many days following the shooting.

What has become increasingly evident with every police shooting of unarmed civilians is a clear lack in trust, transparency, and effective communication. A large portion of the nation has little faith or trust in the police force and their judgement. This is not only apparent in conversation, but also in protests that have erupted across the nation for this specific incident and many other similar incidents.

Along with the audio recorder muting and the span of time between the shooting and when the officers offered Stephon aid, there was also a difference between the original report and the independent autopsy. The police's initial impressions categorized him and his actions at the moment as a threat, but this differs from the independent autopsy findings which suggest he could not have been moving towards them in a threatening manner as he was shot in the back. The police also reported that he was holding some type of firearm, but he was found armed with only a cellphone.

The police's actions on scene as well as the seeming lack of transparency continue to paint these cases as suspicious and in some ways ambiguous. In the age of technology, it would seem that we would be moving closer towards direct proof and a more singular truth; however, live video and thermal cameras continue to leave a contradiction between what the police say, what the video shows, and how the public perceives these events. Despite the "truth" that these recordings offer, we still rely on the perception and emotions of those carrying out the law. If they believe themselves or others to be in danger or to stop a suspect from escaping if they think they are harmful to others, then they are entitled to react and to shoot. This reliance on perception is consistently flawed because perception is innately and unavoidably subjective and biased.

The concepts of danger and fear depend so much on a person's previous understanding of what qualifies as a dangerous situation or person, including skin color, demeanor, gender, clothing, physical signs of class, and ways of speaking, factors all exclusive of the possession of a weapon. All of these forms of bias create our lens and thus our perception. These negative stereotypes, until cleared up and ideally changed, leak in pervasively and always shape what we perceive to be dangerous or life threatening. Until these systemic biases are acknowledged and dealt with, they are allowed to remain invisible and continue to impact these police officers' perceptions and thus actions each day.

It is not that this fear was not real. But did their fear stem simply from their belief that Stephon Clark had a weapon? The fear that these biases create result in precautionary and sometimes reactionary action, and the policies in place protect this acting out of fear for one's life often with little consequences. If we rely on intent alone to prove guilt, we do not always fully hold people accountable for the resulting actions. Whatever the intent of the police officers and whatever guided their fear, this does not change the fact that the life of an unarmed man was taken. Whatever the intent, it does not change the result: the living have lost a family member, a friend, and a member of their community. It only continues to amplify the fear that those expected to protect us will not do so, and that those who have been chosen to hold them accountable never will.

Bachelor & Bachelorette

Isabel Grieder '18

PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABEL GRIEDER '18

Hometown: *Irvington, N.Y.*
Home on Campus: *Babbitt.*
Major: *Philosophy.*
Turn on? *Wordsmiths who don't use big words.*
Turn off? *Being misunderstood.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Dunham, to capture that first experience of terror and promise.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Choker and Frank Ocean because we all love synth and vulnerability.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Can you hear me now?"*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"I have a crush on you. Sorry, that's not true, I have a crush on six other people. I'm kidding — I have a crush on you."*
What's your type? *People that are funny in a way that makes you feel confused.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *My curly locks, my pajamas, ending correspondences with* ":) HA."
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Bathtub.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Yodapez (I was robbed).*
What's your patronus and why? *Mole because I dig and dig.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Setting one alarm.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Not paying attention when people are speaking to you.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Jared, Julia, and, Sophie equally, if they agree to let us kiss.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Jeanne Willcoxon.*
What would your perfect date be? *Pacific Heights, San Francisco. We get stuck in an elevator with someone of Bieber-level fame for half an hour, and he invites us to the intimate event he's putting on that night. We agree to meet up with him later, and in the hours between now and then, decide to lounge, eat cheesecake, and listen to Frank Ocean.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *Four wigs :O*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Being MEAN.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Fondue: a reinvention of cheese and bread into something DELISH.*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights on.*
Favorite campus study spot? *Commons at 4 p.m.*
What's the last lie you told? *Sorry, I fell asleep.*
What was your first thought this morning? *Am I getting sick?*
What's the meaning of life? *Purpose and connection hehe.*
Which member of Disney royalty are you? *Miguel from* Coco.
Which American historical figure are you attracted to and why? *Madeleine L'Engle because her imagination is magical.*

Alex Brantl '18

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX BRANTL '18

Hometown: *Irvington, N.Y.*
Home on Campus: *Babbitt.*
Major: *Sociology.*
Turn on? *First-year boy Jans.*
Turn off? *Faculty members.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Britney Spears (2007) and early Taylor Swift — there's really no in-between.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"Fair and Balanced" (Fox News).*
What TV genre best describes you? *Teen drama.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Are you Jewish?"*
What's your type? *Townies.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Bundy — irrelevant on the weekdays, life of the party on the weekends.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Commons at 12 p.m.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *The Buffers.*
What's your patronus and why? Harry Potter *really isn't my thing... Is this awkward now?*
What would you give a thumbs up? *The new sandwich baskets in McEwen.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *The new mini frying pans in McEwen.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Zach Oscar.*
What would your perfect date be? *Don's Rok on a Thursday night.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *40 Little Hotties™.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Walking slowly on Martin's Way.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Mozz sticks — you are what you eat!*
Lights on or lights off? *Lights on, but no one's home.*
Favorite campus study spot? *A KJ study room.*
What's the last lie you told? *"I've been actively applying for jobs this entire semester!"*
What was your first thought this morning? *Blegh.*
What's the meaning of life? *I'll get back to you on that.*
Which member of Disney royalty are you? *None? I'm a strong, independent woman who doesn't need a prince to save me #crushthepatriarchy.*

SEX & the Campus: This is for you

by Lucy Munves '19
Head Production Editor

ILLUSTRATION BY HEIDI WONG '20

When scrolling through Facebook a few days ago, I saw a tweet that was arguably one of the funniest I had ever seen. "Dear big girls: Don't be afraid to get on top. If he dies, he dies," it read. I cackled and quickly shared it with my friends and we all revelled in the relatability of this post. Nevertheless, this topic is a relevant one. At some point or another during sex, I'm sure we all have wondered how we look from a certain angle or if our double chin is too prominent. But why does any of this matter? Since when is attractiveness determined only in terms of how we appeal to our current partner? Body confidence in bed is such an important thing to have and to talk about, as it can lead to a much healthier sexual experience.

For years, health magazines have touted headlines like "Five Ways to Look Better Naked" and "Look Hotter When You're On Top!" While these sentiments may be shared widely among women, they become incredibly problematic for a number of reasons. This toxic focus on appearance is incredibly damaging as it paints a rigid picture of what is "attractive" and who is worthy of this title.

Why isn't my body *enough* to begin with? Why do I have to do 12 different abdominal exercises just to be deemed attractive enough to have sex? These articles preach an almost backwards version of confidence — in order to love your body, you have to change it. To be good in bed, you have to be a white woman with perfect skin and teeth, a size two, and perfectly toned abs. "If you don't fit any of these criteria, don't worry — these exercises will fix everything and you will be worthy of love and great sex," these articles articulate. It is much more important to teach people that body confidence should come from loving yourself and your body, not from chasing down an ideal, which, frankly, doesn't exist. Everyone is worthy of loving their body, no matter their appearance.

Loving your body is something you should do for yourself. There is nothing wrong with wanting to change how you look, as long as you are doing it on your own terms and are going about it in a healthy way. This is not something that you can do to make a partner happier, yet, this has not been reflected in national media. Meghan Trainor's chart-topping song "All About That Bass" details how happy the singer is with her body, but only in terms of how she is perceived by other men and potential sexual partners. What's the point of preaching body confidence and self-love if it's only for the purpose of being attractive to men? Shouldn't you just love your body because you can, and you should? Your relationship with your body is such a personal one — don't let anyone else invade it.

These articles are also incredibly exclusionary. They are almost always written by a cisgender heterosexual woman, and target individuals of the same demographic trying to appeal to men. This type of language is heteronormative and minimizes the experiences of those who are not straight or cisgender. Everyone must be included in these conversations about body confidence during sex; writing these articles with heteronormative language does the exact opposite. People of all races, gender identities, and sexualities experience these kinds of insecurities.

Learning to accept your body is a lifelong journey, and how you "look" in bed is one of the least important things to think about during sex. If you have any doubts, your partner should make you feel confident in bed, not the opposite. If they don't, let that one go as soon as possible. Your love for your body and confidence comes from you and you alone. Relying on someone else for this reassurance doesn't make these insecurities go away. Loving your body isn't narcissistic; it is a critical way to have a more positive sexual experience. You don't need your partner or anyone else to do that — this is for you.

Specstrip

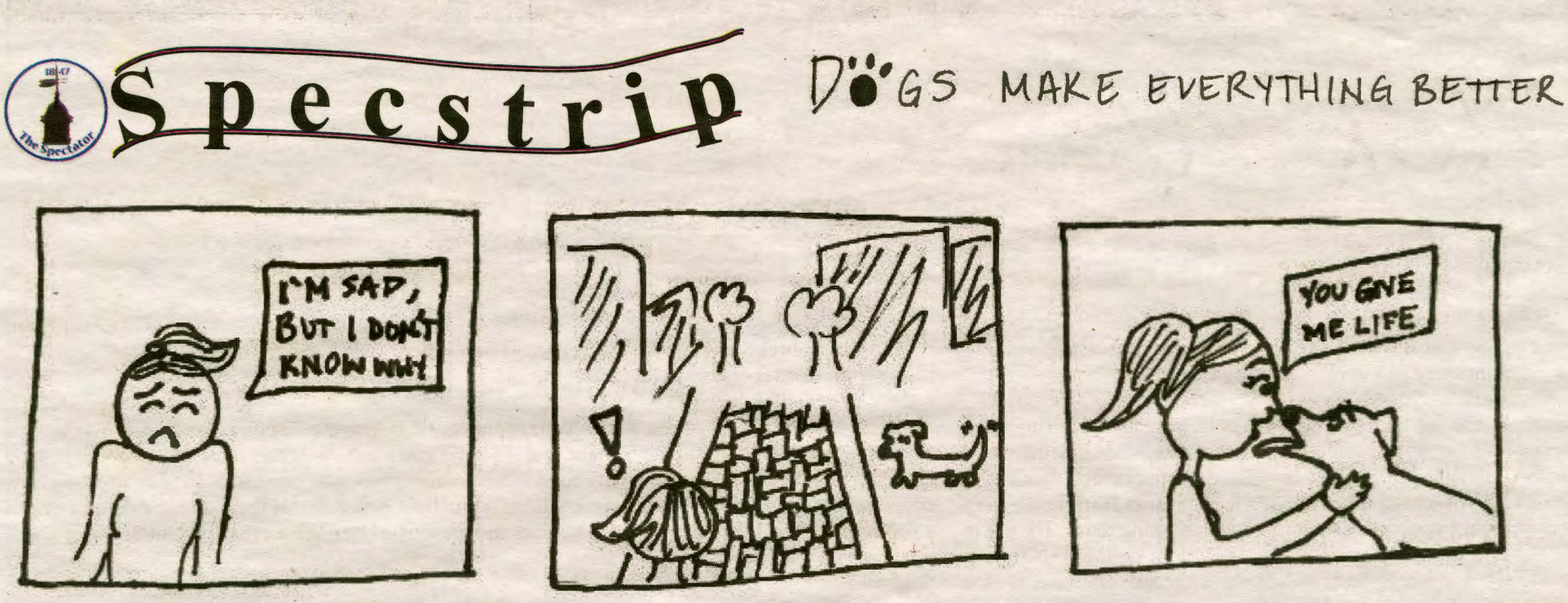

ILLUSTRATION BY MOLLY GEISINGER '19

FOOD REVIEW

I Ramen Bar

by Vincent Tran '18
Contributing Writer

Setting

I Ramen Bar is located at 103 New Hartford Shopping Center. Some may remember this location because it used to be a mainstay delivery option for Hamiltonians called Asian Bistro. The restaurant is hard to miss, as it is located right next to a giant parking lot and Planet Fitness. The outside appearance of the restaurant will not surprise or "wow" anyone, since it is fairly plain. When I walked in, I was amazed to see how modern and decorated the interior was given its outside appearance. Don't judge a book by its cover.

The interior consists of a bar on one side of the restaurant and a dining area on the other. The dining area has a modern feel to it with its assortment of table booths, chairs, lights, and TVs. I was greeted, seated, and given a menu immediately by a waitress. The menu was overwhelming with all different types of food, such as ramen, sushi, fried rice, and sushi burritos. Everyone in your party will be able to find something they like with the vast selections of dishes with meat, fish, or vegetables.

I asked the waitress what she recommended and was told of three items I absolutely *had* to try.

-Gyoza (pan-fried pork dumplings) ($4.95)
-Dancing Shrimp Burrito ($9.95)
-Miso Ramen ($10.95)

First Bite Thoughts

I started the meal with six pieces of gyoza, which were seared a perfect golden brown. However, I was not impressed with the taste. They seemed to be rather bland and did not have enough meat filling. Worst yet, they were very oily. I definitely have had better Gyoza around the area and would not order it again.

Next, I ventured further with the dancing shrimp burrito. I was excited because the food concept of a sushi burrito is usually only found on the West Coast. The burrito consisted of shrimp tempura, spicy shrimp, seaweed salad, avocado, lettuce, and spicy mayo. Though the serving size was small for $10, the flavors were worth it. There were all sorts of textures and flavors going on with every bite. The flavor that was most consistent was the shrimp. I am a fan.

The star of the meal was the ramen, which should not have been surprising due to the restaurant's name. My first thoughts were "this is really tasty and flavorful." The homemade broth was miso based and gave the noodles plenty of flavor. In addition to the noodles, there were bamboo shoots, green onions, bean sprouts, corn, pork slices, and a soft boiled egg.

The ramen bowls are all customizable, so you can eat it however you like. I smelled the aroma of the ramen the moment it left the kitchen doors. I devoured the ramen and drank the broth in just under five minutes because it was so delicious.

The only critique I have about the ramen was that the slices of pork were a tad dry. One thing I was not able to get was the sushi, which I heard was good from other customers.

Bottom line

This is definitely a restaurant to go try if you want Japanese-inspired cuisine. The food items are fairly priced depending on the dishes you order. I would ditch the appetizers and head straight for the ramen or sushi. They conveniently accept both cash and cards.

There is also ample parking space. The best mode of transportation is by car, which will take about 17 minutes from Hamilton. Prepare to sleep after because the dishes will put you into a food coma.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VINCENT TRAN '18

Ask Alex

What if I did not get into any of the classes I wanted?

Have no fear, it is not the end of the world if you could not get into any of the classes you wanted. Sometimes, if a class has an outrageously long waitlist, another section will open up, so watch your email. If you email the professor showing your interest, that will definitely help too. Finally, there is an add/drop period at the beginning of the semester and you can always sit in on the desired class to see if you can get in.

What was all that commotion in Kirner-Johnson Sunday night?

If you are referring to a bunch of naked students wearing backpacks and bandanas, then that was Hamilton's very own streaking team. Try not to stare too long the next time it happens because even if you cannot see their faces, they can definitely still see yours. The next time the weather is warm enough you may catch them running again.

If a hookup comes to my room but I do not want them to sleep over, how do I kick them out?

First of all, good for you for agreeing to have the festivities occur in your room. If you have a roommate, it will be easy to explain the circumstances. If you are in a single, however, it may be a little less subtle. If you are in Bundy, for example, how about saying nicely, "Well, that was fun. Have a good trip back up the Hill!"

Where are good places to sleep on campus?

Your room would be a great place to start, but if you are looking for a quick snooze, then the dark side is your best bet. KJ, Opus, List, and the music library are good quiet spaces. Not willing to trek to the dark side for a midday snooze? Try the third floor of the library, anywhere in Sadove, or possibly either of Commons's balconies.

When will the Dunham green grow back?

It does always seem that as soon as the lawn grows back, it turns into a large patch of dead grass all over again. Anyway, if the College does not install a massive tent anytime soon, then the grass will have a good chance to grow. But, knowing the school, there are lots of big events coming up.

CAB announces Charli XCX as Class & Charter Day headliner

by Emily Rivito '21
Staff Writer

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Charli XCX's last official studio album was released in 2015, called *Sucker*.

After months of speculation, voting, and waiting, Campus Activies Board (CAB) revealed that Charli XCX will be the headliner at Hamilton's Class and Charter Day on Monday, May 7.

Moxie Raia, a 27-year-old pop and R&B singer-songwriter, will be opening for Charli XCX. After graduating from Columbia University where she studied jazz, Raia signed with Capitol Records and moved to Los Angeles. A cover of Big Sean's "Beware" brought popularity, leading her to release her first single "Buffalo Bill."

Shortly after, she wrote and released her first mixtape, *941*. Songs like "On My Mind" with Pusha T mix dance beats with soulful singing. Recently, she toured with Justin Bieber on his Purpose World Tour. In Sept. 2017, she released her first single, "Wheels" off her upcoming debut album.

Born in Cambridge, England, Charlotte Emma Aitchison, otherwise known as Charli XCX, has upbeat, pop-infused songs and an electric personality. Her bold voice fills the venues she performs in, and the dance-driven beat of her music uplifts crowds. She first began writing songs when she was 14 and released music on her MySpace page in 2008. After being discovered by several producers, she began to perform at parties in East London. She was signed to Asylum Records in 2010 and released various singles during the next few years. In 2012, she wrote and released her first mixtape with eight songs called *Heartbreaks and Earthquakes*. That year, she also opened for Coldplay on their tour.

Charli XCX's first experience with fame came when she contributed vocals and lyrics to Icona Pop's hit song "I Love It" in 2013. Shortly after, she released her first full-length album called *True Romance*. Highlights from this album include "You - Ha Ha Ha" with smooth vocals singing over a hypnotic beat. The album garnered rave reviews, reaching number 85 on the UK Albums Chart.

The next year, she released the song "SuperLove" while working on her second album. She enjoyed more success when she was featured on Iggy Azalea's hit "Fancy" in 2014. Throughout this time, she would lend her songwriting talents to many well-known artists, including Sky Ferreira, Neon Jungle, Rihanna, and Gwen Stefani. After this, she released her smash hit "Boom Clap" that reached number 8 on the Billboard Hot 100 and number 6 in the UK. Following her success, she released her second album, *Sucker*, that same year. She then wrote and released "Break the Rules", which received similar acclaim. Another song on the album, "Doing It", features Rita Ora and has a sunny and bright vibe, with lyrics like "We're staying all night/ We'll never slow down." Before embarking on her own world tour in 2015, she opened for Katy Perry on her Prismatic World Tour.

For the next two years, Charli XCX continued working on her third album while making various appearances and unveiling new music. She released an extended play entitled "Vroom Vroom" in 2016. Later that year, she released the bubbly single, "After the Afterparty." In 2017, *Number 1 Angel* was released as a mixtape with many female guest collaborations. A few months later, she released a single called "Boys", calling it the lead single for her third album. After that, she released another mixtape entitled *Pop 2* with many artist collaborations, including Carly Rae Jepsen and Tove Lo.

This year, she will be an opening act for Taylor Swift's *Reputation* tour. But before she embarks on that, she will be performing on the Hill for Class & Charter Day. Her and Moxie Raia, alongside performances from Hamilton's own Matt Goon and Stink-182, are sure to lead to a memorable day.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Pop and R&B singer-songwriter Moxie Raia will open for Charli XCX on Class & Charter Day.

WHCL 88.7FM

Show Profile:

Sister Hour

Mondays at 6 p.m.

with...

Anna O'Keefe '18 and Liz O'Keefe '20

Tune in to Sister Hour with Liz and Anna, Hamilton's favorite sister duo! Each week their playlist features quirky themes and funny family anecdotes. If you're lucky, you'll catch some embarrassing childhood stories. Anna and Liz love their show as an opportunity to reconnect each week and share both their own and their family's taste in music with the Hamilton Community. From Bruce Springsteen to Irish ballads, their show has it all, not to mention some classic sibling bickering.

Each week, Sister Hour chooses a theme that relates to anything from their mood, to their lives or their family.

Typical Playlist: "O'Keefe Family Road Trip Jams"

"Jungleland"
- Bruce Springsteen

"Chip on My Shoulder"
- Legally Blonde the Musical

"If I had 1,000,000,000 Dollars"
- Barenaked Ladies

"Get Out the Map"
- Indigo Girls

Established in 1941, WHCL is a non-profit, student-run, free-form radio station. Located atop College Hill in the beautiful village of Clinton, New York, it boasts 270 watts of power and runs 20 hours a day, seven days a week.

A Capella invitational features Tumbling After and the Mamajamas of Middlebury College

by Grace Passannante '20
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, April 7, one of Hamilton's all-female a cappella groups, Tumbling After, took the stage in the Chapel. The chapel was full of friends and some family who came for the Tumbling After & Middlebury Mamajamas Invitational. A cappella invitationals offer the opportunity for student groups, especially within the NESCACS, to share their musical talent throughout the Northeast. Invitationals demonstrate student initiative and passion about music, as well as their desire to share it with others.

Spotted sitting in the pews before they took the stage, Tumbling After was decked out in spring green dresses and adorned with yellow daisies in their hair. Once they went on stage, Julia Carpenter '18 opened with her solo, "Bad Self Portraits", by Lake Street Dive. Her strong and clear voice carried and danced across the chapel, setting a solid tone for the rest of the performance. The group then sang one of their classics, "Wisely and Slow." Hannah Meisels '18, a senior, followed and serenaded the audience with "Hometown Glory," an Adele original. After Meisels, the group spiced it up and had two soloists in "What Now", by Rihanna. The voices of Julia Carpenter and Anna Lyndaker '21 complemented each other and echoed throughout the Chapel.

According to schedule, the Mamajamas took the stage after Tumbling After finished their first set. This co-ed group came adorned in unique outfits and stood in a tight circle. Only ten out of their eighteen members were able to travel all the way from Vermont, but they blew the crowd away. Sam Houlihan opened with his solo "Breezeblocks", by Alt-J, energizing the room and changing the pace of the performance. His facial expressions and vocal control elevated the song's effect. The next song, "Run to You", by Pentatonix, was an ensemble that revealed the group's delicate and angelic tone, as well as their impressive dynamics. Next, Isabel Merrell belted "Bottom of the River" by Delta Rae, demonstrating a strong range and powerful group energy. The last song the Mamajamas sang was a crowd pleaser -- "Sunday Candy" by the well-known Chance the Rapper. The performers added their own twist to the song, incorporating two soloists, Thomas Wentworth and Tim Hansen. It was the perfect way to end their set list.

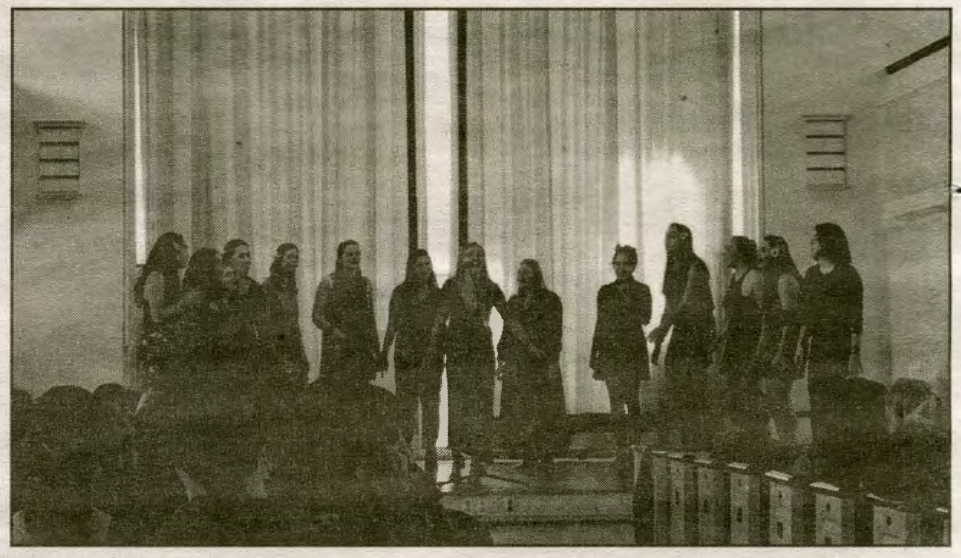

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE PASSANNANTE '20

Tumbling After performs in the Chapel. They are one of Hamilton's all-women a capella groups.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GRACE PASSANNANTE '20

Middlebury's Mamajamas takes the stage at the invitational performing alongside Hamilton's Tumbling After in the Chapel.

Much to the pleasure of the crowd, however, the performance was not over. Tumbling After took the stage once again to perform four more arrangements. It was alumni weekend on campus, and the a cappella group had prepared accordingly. Two of their alumni, Catherine Daigle '17 and Leah Pranschke '17 joined the group on stage. Although they were not dressed in green, the two recent graduates adorned white baseball hats that read "Tumbling After" in green paint -- a nice personal touch. As soon as the alumni joined in the ensemble "Not Ready", all of the group members' faces lit up with joy. Next, sophomore Angelica Coutinho sang "Surround Me" by Léon with freshman Mian Osumi. Following that, the group sang a quiet, peaceful ensemble called "Parting Glass" that signified that the performance was coming to an end. Senior Audrey Stein challenged the slow vibe, ending the concert on a high note with "I Feel the Earth Move," by Carole King.

It was a pleasure to have the Mamajamas at Hamilton and perform in the chapel. The concert was a great way to share music, make new friends, and connect over some great tunes.

Preview: Sungmin Kim's senior thesis recital

by Natasha Lane '21
STAFF WRITER

When talking to senior music major and assistant choir conductor Sungmin Kim '18 about his upcoming performance, it is easy to see the passion and excitement behind his every word. Kim's senior thesis recital in piano and choral conducting spans hundreds of years and thousands of miles to bring together an array of Euro-centric instrumental and vocal pieces. Heavily focused on music native to romance language countries including France, Italy, and Germany, Kim's repertoire showcases music written by composers whom he describes as "leaders and masters of the classical and romantic genres." His performance will be sectioned in two parts, the first consisting of solo piano and the second showcasing his skills in choral conducting.

Working under the guidance of Professor Rob Cole and Professor Jace Saplan, Kim has been able to refine his talents and progress tremendously as an artist and performer over his past four years at Hamilton. He described the encouraging nature of Hamilton's music department, saying, "While there may not be many music majors at Hamilton, there is such a strong and wonderful music program that anyone can benefit from artistically". When deciding whether or not he wanted to persue music as a major early in his college career, Kim recounted how it was people like Professors Cole and Saplan who helped him gain enough confidence in his musical ability to think about music as a career after Hamilton. When asked about professor Cole – the professor overseeing his thesis – he fondly mentioned the advice he gives "that conveys the expressiveness of the piece of music so effectively," his discipline, and the respect he has for him.

With the guidance of Hamilton's support system, Kim has navigated the struggles of learning to conduct an ensemble, and drawn on these new skills to improve upon his experience with piano accompaniment.

Being able to think "on the spot and always be listening to your surroundings" in order to identify what works and what does not is one of the most important skills needed when conducting. Kim stated that "identifying the problem among multiple sections of voices and figuring out the best way to fix it" quickly and efficiently is one of the hardest aspects of conducting, but one he has become increasingly more proficient in during his time at Hamilton.

Learning to conduct has allowed him to develop body awareness and pedagogy, as well as being able to articulate what he wants in music, which are skills that easily transcend into solo piano. A lot of singers come from very different musical backgrounds, and learning how to cater to the needs of each musician during rehearsal, while challenging, is extremely rewarding. Kim described how people going out of their way to rehearse with him on his thesis is something he is extremely grateful for, and how moved he is when people say "thank you" at the end of rehearsal. The idea of being able to impact students through music is something he truly cherishes.

When asked about any advice he would give future music majors on campus, Kim smiles and says, "Do music. With the flexibility and attentiveness of the department, whatever you want to get out of your musical experience, you will through the Hamilton curriculum."

In rehearsal, he says nerves will come easily when thinking about the 60 eyes looking at your every move, but it is important to "have fun and maintain a strong relationship with your choir members" in order to have the most beneficial experience. Kim is set to attend graduate school for music at Ithaca College next year, hoping to build upon his knowledge from Hamilton and become a professional pianist in the near future.

Sungmin Kim's senior thesis performance will debut in Wellin Hall on Sunday, April 15 at 3 PM, and his additional organ recital will be held in the Chapel on May 6, at 2:30 PM.

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Jealous you weren't picked to be the Bachelorette or Bachelor of the week? Nominate yourself or others by emailing featspec@hamilton.edu

Men's lacrosse hopes to gain positive momentum in final conference stretch

*from **Lacrosse**, page 16*

four unanswered goals. The Bantams had the lead, 5-4 at the half. Hamilton tied the game at five a piece when Zach Larsen '19 scored the first goal of the second half. Larsen '19 also contributed to the effort with three assists. Henry Hunt '20 then scored one of his career high three goals to give the Continentals the lead. Unfortunately, Trinity rebounded by scoring four straight goals to take a nine to six lead as the third quarter game to a close. Henry Hill '19 scored his second goal of the day to start the fourth and pulled the Continentals to only two goals down. Again the Bantams responded by going on a run, this time scoring five unanswered goals. The Continentals scored two goals late, but it wasn't enough. The Bantams won with a final score of 14 to nine. Gately '20 had a very strong day in goal with 17 saves. Morse '19 put in two goals, while McCollum '19 scored one. Conley '20, Brock Bowers '20, and Jack Warren '19 all pitched in one assist.

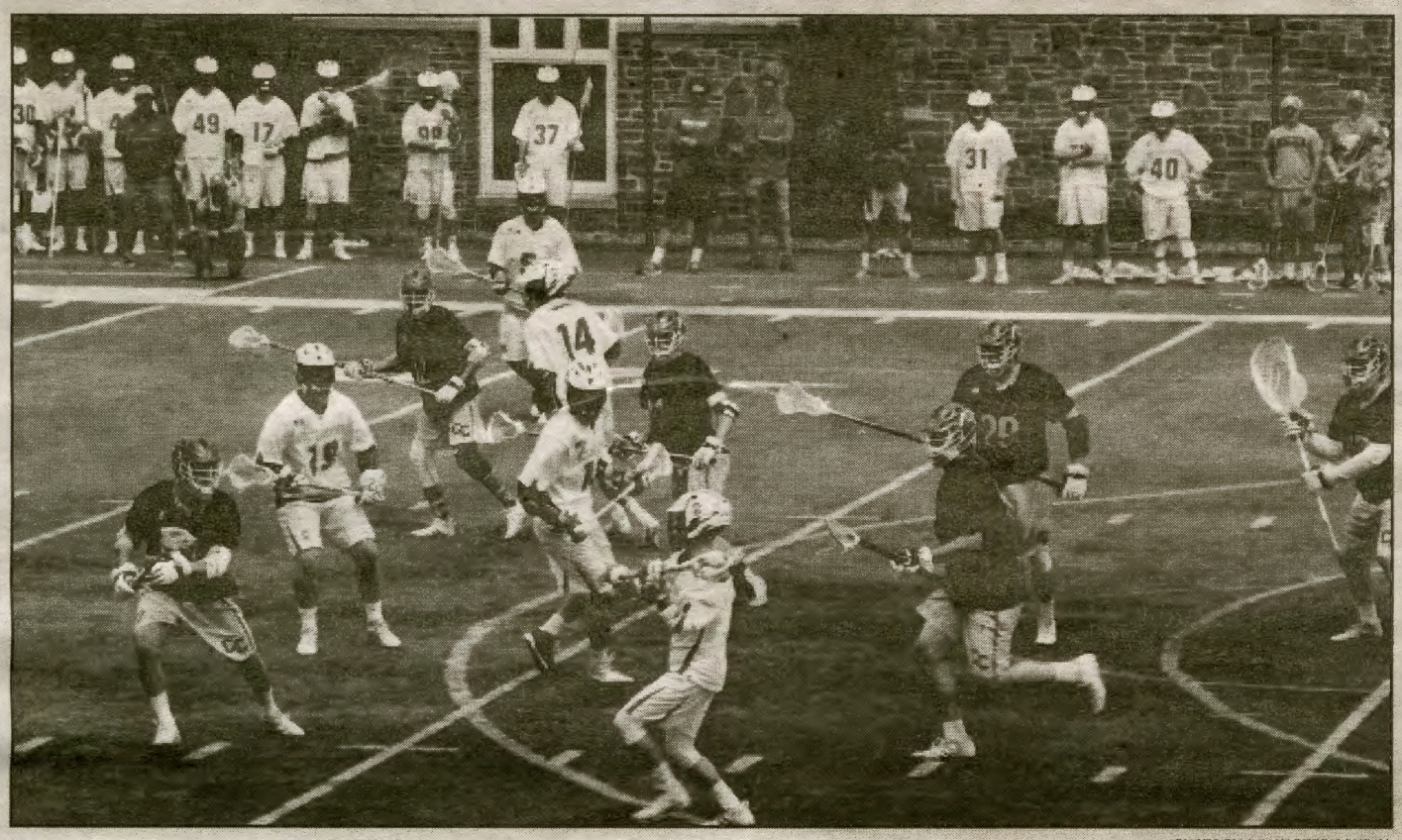

PHOTO BY JULIAN PERRICONE '20

The Continentals will head New London, CT to face NESCAC foe Connecticut College on April 14.

This weekend, Hamilton's men's lacrosse team will be on the road as they travel to New London, CT where they will face off against Connecticut College. After that game, the Continentals will close their season out with two home games. The first, a conference game, against Wesleyan University on Saturday, April 21. The Continentals final game of the year is on Tuesday, April 24 against Hartwick College.

With the loss Tuesday to Williams, Hamilton was eliminated from playoff contention; however, with many key contributors returning next season, an upturn is likely for Hamilton men's lacrosse. The NESCAC is one of the best conferences in Division III lacrosse, and success does no come overnight. For the Continentals to be competitive in coming years, they must consistently work hard and continue to recruit imporving talent. Whether they can do that remains to be seen.

Tennis teams prepare for important matches against Tufts on April 25

*from **Tennis**, page 16*

teen games, but unfortunately Nagori was edged out by Roji's performance, losing the final set 6-10, and the win went to Wesleyan. In the sixth and final singles flight, Jafar Sharipov '21 lost to Wesleyan's Jon Holtzman by one game in the first set and five in the second.

In the men's doubles, Wesleyan's dominant teams defeated the Continentals in all three flights. Farber and Dotterer lost 8-4, Zimmerman and Derby lost 8-6, and Matt May '21 and Eamon Gibbons '21, not in any singles matches, were defeated 8-5. The men fought valiantly and held their own against one of the best Division III teams in the nation.

On the women's side, the Continentals faced an even tougher challenge in Wesleyan's nationally ranked #4 women's team. Jane Haffer '19 faced Wesleyan's Eudice Chong in the first match, losing both sets but grabbing two wins in the first. In the second flight, Sophia Aulicino '21 took on Victoria Yu, and lost both sets by only three games to six. Facing Aashli Budhiraja, Audrey Chor '21 won the first set with a dominant score of six games to two games. This was the first set victory against Wesleyan's powerful team. Unfortunately, Chor lost the second set, sending the match into a tiebreaking third set. Both players exchanged wins, but Budhiraja won out in the end with ten wins to Chor's seven, a tough loss for Chor, but still an incredible match.

Ajla Karabegovic '21 took on Wesleyan's Polina Kiseleva in the fourth flight, winning one game in the first set and two in the second, but ultimately falling to Kiseleva's strong performance. In the fifth match, Ndanu Mutisya '21 faced off against Alissa Nakamoto, grabbing one win in each set, though Nakamoto claimed six in each and the match victory. In the final singles match, Katherine McNally '18 lost to Helen Klass-Warch in both sets in one of the toughest matches of the day.

Wesleyan's #4 team similarly dominated in the doubles matches, with the team of Chong and Yu that won an MIT doubles invite earlier this year beating the Continentals' Haffer and Aulicino with a score of 8-1. Chor and Karabegovic managed to secure 4 wins against Wesleyan's team of Kiseleva and Nakamoto, who still ultimately won with 8 wins. In Saturday's final match, Mutisya and McNally faced against another powerful Wesleyan team of Klass-Warch and McCann, losing 8-1.

Despite Wesleyan winning 9 matches to 0 on the women's side and 8 matches to 1 on the men's, the Continentals put up a great fight against two of the best Division III teams in the nation. Both teams will continue their seasons with matches against Union College this Thursday at home, followed by two more home matches on Saturday and Sunday.

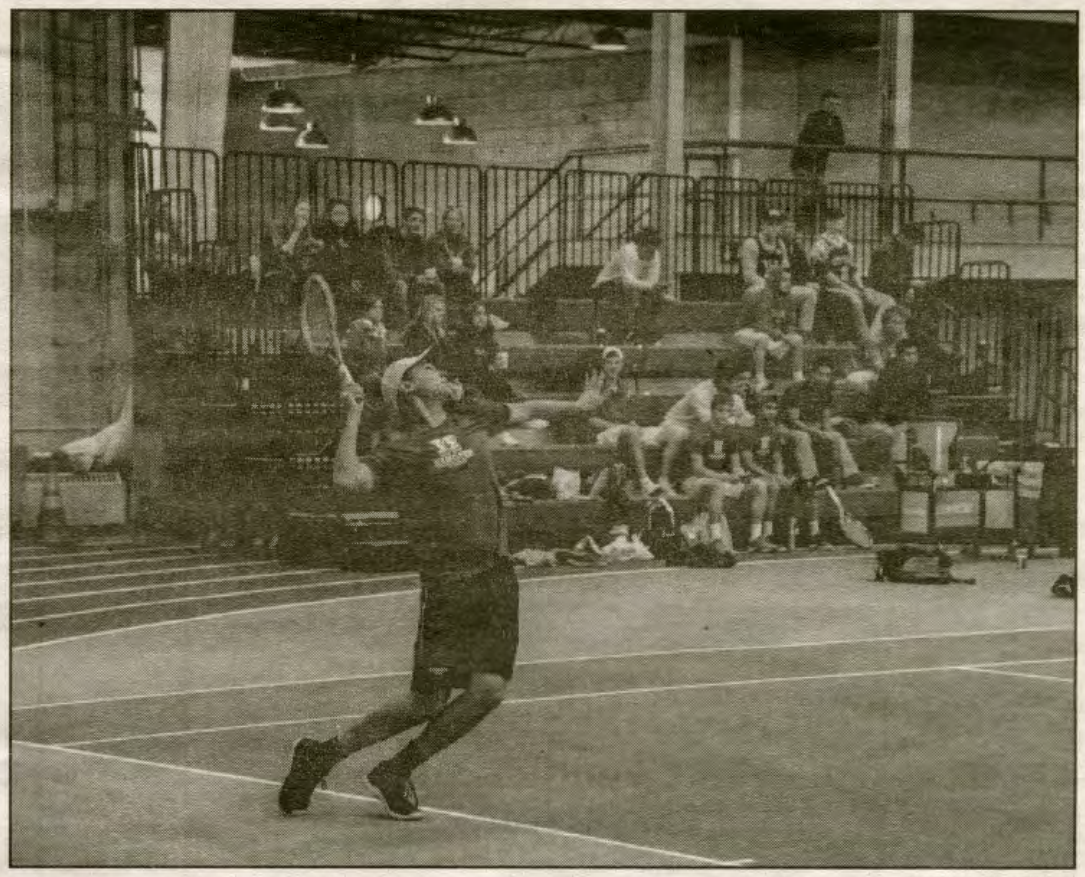

PHOTO BY JERRY TANG '21

Cold weather has forced Hamilton into the Field House for much of the season.

Track teams post impressive early season performances as NESCACs approach

by Jake Bolster '19
Staff Writer

The Hamilton College women's and men's track teams are poised to follow up a record breaking indoor season with an equally successful outdoor season thanks to a handful of impactful frirst-years and seasoned veterans. During the indoor season, a combined ten school records were broken between the two squads, with both teams competing at Atlantic Regionals to cap off the season, and Eli Saucier '18 of the men's squad earning a spot at NCAA Nationals in Alabama.

Coming off such a strong indoor season, one may assume there would be some championship hangover, or fatigue setting in from training for six months straight. This is not the case, as the Continentals' outdoor season got off to a strong start in Jacksonville, FL over the second week of spring break. Both teams trained hard for a week in Orlando before traveling to Jacksonville on Thursday, March 22, and competing the next day. Shorthanded, and going up against Division I competition like Clemson and Princeton, the Continentals ran well. Many people qualified for NESCAC championships at the meet, and Saucier even scored points in the 200 meter dash.

Carrying momentum from the Sunshine State, many Continentals have their eyes set on new personal bests and championships at the end of the season. Grace Heller '19 shared that she hopes to "break 17:30 in the 5k and hit 36:30 in the 10k" while captain Hanna Jerome '18 stated her wish to "have a top eight finish at the NESCAC championship, run a personal-best in the 1500m and 800m runs and have a lot of fun while doing so." Cat Berry, standout junior for the women's team has her sights set on another dominant run towards NESCACs, while breaking team event record as well. "I want to improve my standing at NESCACs and Regionals, as well as the team's standing. I also hope to break some relay records in both the 4x100 and 4x400," she says.

Enthusiasm and determination are equally present on the men's team with captains Saucier, Henry Whipple '18, and Peter DeWeirdt '18 all expressing high hopes for the team. Saucier says "I expect to break my current sprint records and place on the podium at nationals," while also describing his desire to "leave a positive impact on the underclassmen; being in a leadership position, I believe bringing this energy is very important in developing and sustaining a good team culture and work ethic."

With those lofty goals in mind, the Continentals competed at SUNY Geneseo on March 31 in typical Upstate New York conditions: overcast, windy, and frigid. With wind speeds clocking in at thirty miles per hour and temperatures fluctuating between the low forties and high fifties, the Continentals faced steep competition on and off the track. This did not stop the men and women from competing hard, and though a few Continentals bowed out to injuries or tightness, more qualified for NESCACs and Atlantic Regionals at the end of the year. On the men's side, Eric Wohl '18 won the 3k steeplechase, Whipple got second in the 10k, Lucas Wright '21 won the 800 meter dash, jumper Preston DeLaurentis '18 won the triple jump, and thrower Ty Kunzman '20 placed seventh in both the javelin and hammer throw. On the women's side, Berry scored third in the 100 meter and won the 200 meter dash, Jerome placed fifth in the 800 meter dash, and Heller won the 10k.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRETT HULL

Steiner '20 finished 8th in the 100-meter dash at Geneseo.

Additionally, the 4x100 meter relay — featuring the quartet of Berry, Emily Steates, '19, Marie Steiner '20, and Diamond Jackson '21 finished second while thrower Emily Hull placed sixth in the hammer toss.

However, these triumphs have been somewhat tempered in the following days. The weather has not cooperated, causing the Continentals to cancel their home invitational this past weekend. With only six meets to qualify for NESCACs, the Continentals need every chance they can get to post fast times and jump or throw impressive marks. When asked about the transition from indoor to outdoor, Ryan Sedwick '19 noted that, "the transition from indoor to outdoor has been very tough this year, mostly because there hasn't really been a transition. Between all the cold weather and snow, we're still stuck on the indoor track a lot of the time." Other team members acknowledged the difficulties of running outdoors in cold temperatures, but found positives in the events changes that come with a bigger track. Heller views the transition as "very exciting" because her event group, the 5k runners, start with a "12 on the lap counter, instead of a 25." When prompted to respond to the change in conditions, veteran captains Jerome and Saucier eschewed the weather and instead keyed in on the importance of maintaining continuity between the two seasons. "It's important to think of it as one continuous season and take the hard work from our indoor season and let that boost us into the outdoor season," Saucier notes.

Jerome subscribes to a similar training mindset: "I have always thought of Indoor track as a stepping-stone to Outdoor. During the winter months, teammates take the time to get a feel for the different events and decide where they will most achieve. Outdoor is a shorter season where we are prepared and ready to let all of the hard work pay off. I am very excited for what is to come."

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRETT HULL

Erich Wohl '18 hurdled his way to first place in the 3K steeplechase at SUNY-Geneseo.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
April 12, 2018

Men's lacrosse team struggles against high-caliber NESCAC opponents

by Robert Berk '20
Staff Writer

	1	2	F
Hamilton	4	2	6
Middlebury	**8**	**4**	**12**

	1	2	F
Hamilton	4	5	9
Trinity	**5**	**9**	**14**

It's been a tough year for Hamilton's men's lacrosse team. After a blowout loss to ninth-ranked Tufts University to start the season, the Continentals rebounded in their next game. Hamilton faced off against Utica College on Withiam Field. The Continentals dominated all aspects of the game en-route to an 18-5 victory. Chad Morse '19 and Chris Conley '20 led the team with four goals each. Three players tied for the lead with two assists each and Sam Knollmeyer '20 tallied three saves.

The Continentals lost their next game against Keene State by two goals and then lost the next, against Bowdoin College, by one. The following week, Hamilton fought hard, but lost by two goals to Nazareth College. The team has continued to be resilient and was prepared for two NESCAC games last week.

On Wednesday April 4th Hamilton hosted the Middlebury Panthers. Conley '20 scored the first goal of the game. The Panthers didn't let the Continentals gain any momentum, as they got off to a fast start, scoring five goals in the first quarter. Matt Saltzman '18 scored the first two goals of his career as a Continental. Clay McCollum '19 also tallied two goals. Morse '19 had one goal and this was his tenth straight game with at least one point. After an even second quarter, with each team scoring three goals, the score was 8-4 in favor of the Panthers. Neither team was able to score in the third quarter. Kyle Gately '20 was in goal for the Continentals nand had eight saves. The teams combined for six goals in the fourth quarter. Four of the six were in favor of Middlebury and they won with the final score 12 to six.

This past Saturday, the Continentals traveled to Hartford, CT to face off against the Trinity College Bantams. Hamilton was ready from the opening whistle and jumped out to a four goal lead in the first ten minutes. The Bantams scored a goal late in the quarter and dominated the second quarter, scoring

*see **Lacrosse**, page 14*

PHOTO BY JULIAN PERRICONE '20

Hamilton's offense has been unable to consistently find the back of the net.

Men's and women's tennis teams fall to nationally ranked Wesleyan squads on April 7

by Cliff Musial '21
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the men's and women's tennis teams faced off against Wesleyan, one of the NESCAC's strongest tennis teams. Both of Wesleyan's teams are nationally ranked, and came to the Hill boasting strong players and records. Prior to Saturday's match, the Wesleyan women's team was undefeated for four matches; the men's team had only won one out of five. The Continentals entered the match with a 3-5 record on the women's side and a 2-7 record on the men's.

The men started off the day with Sam Farber '20 taking on Wesleyan's Steven Chen in a pair of close sets, barely losing both with a score of six games to four games in each set, putting Wesleyan up one win. Rob Dotterer '21 then faced off against Tiago Eusebio of Wesleyan, barely losing the first set with four wins to Eusebio's six. However, Eusebio dominated the second set, winning 6-2 and claiming another match for Wesleyan. In the third flight, Max Zimmerman '21 lost two incredibly close 7-6 sets to Cam Daniels, putting Wesleyan up 3-0.

The only win on the men's side came from Tim Derby '21. Facing off against Wesleyan's Princeton Carter, Derby grabbed a win in the first set by one game, winning 7-6. In the second set, Carter came back to take the set 6-3, sending the pair into an intense third set of twenty games.

"It was really a mental test for me because I had stay focused and concentrate on my game plan throughout the match," Derby said. "He (Carter) had his highs and lows, but I was just trying to think about what I could control on my side of the court. My teammates were also a huge factor, their vocal support during the very close third set tiebreak definitely helped me get over the finish line."

With support from his teammates and personal focus, Derby was able to pull through by two games, winning the set 11-9 and earning the Continentals their first win of the day. This was Derby's first win in a NESCAC match and eighth win of the season.

In the next match, Eyad Nagori '18 faced off against Adrian Roji, and the two also went into a third set after Nagori won the first set 7-5 and lost the second 5-7. Like Derby's final set, it ran for a long six

*see **Baseball**, page 14*

PHOTO BY JERRY TANG '21

The doubles team of Farber and Dotterer has had great success this spring.